(3) Government of Andhra Pradesh have sanctioned Rs. 50 lakhs to issue consumption loans to affected weavers through District Cooperative Central Banks in the State.

(iii) A number of fiscal concessions have been provided to the hand loom sector in order to mitigate the hardship faced by it *visa-vis* the power loom sector. Further 22 itmes have been reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector. The Act and Orders issued in this regard have been stayed by Supreme Court of India. Vigorous steps are being taken to vacate the stay.

(c) Government of India have consituted a high power Committee to review the progress of implementation of the Textile Policy, 1985. The Committee is also expected to make an assessment as to how far various measures devised in the Policy for protecting of handlooms have been effective in achieving their objectives.

Courts functioning from rented buildings

299. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Courts which are functioning from rented buildings in the country; and

(b) by when Court buildings are proposed to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are required to provide infrastructure facilities including Court buildings.

Execution of Narmada Dam Project

300. SHRI HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the execution of the Narmada Dam Project has started and if not, when the work is likely to start;

(b) what is the investment proposed for the same;

(c) whether some Non Resident Indians have been invited to contribute resources for the project; and

(d) if so, what is their response in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir; the work on the Sardar Sarovar Project in Gujarat has been taken up.

(b) About Rupees six thousand four hundred crores.

(c) and (d) Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited has recently launched Public Deposit Scheme under the Companies Act, 1961. Under the Scheme the non-resident Indians are also eligible to make deposits within the prescribed ceiling.

Pending cases in Supreme Court/ High Courts

301. SHRI HARI SINGH : SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that arrears of cases in the Supreme

Court and High Courts have mounted during the last ten years ;

(b) if so, what is the data of arrears in these Courts as existed five years back and at present;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any measures to reduce these arrears;

(d) whsther any changes are also contemplated in the present legal system to facilitate speedy disposal of cases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when these cases are ■likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The number of cases pending in Supremo Court of India as on 31st December, 1983 and 31st December, 1988 were 136313 and 199138, respectively. Similarly information in respect of High Courts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1988 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 13-5-1988 and this will have the effect of expediting the disposal of criminal cases. Recommendations of the Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts set up in 1984 to reduce arrears have been forwarded to the High Courts and the State Governments for appropriate action.

(f) 'No precise time limit can be laid down for the disposal of pjnding cases in these Courts.

Ceiling on expenditure incurred on Lok Sabha/State Assemblies elections

302. SHRI HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Com mission has proposed to raise the ceiling of expenditure in curred by candidates for elections to the Lok Sabha and the State 'Assemblies keeping in view the rising cost of services and other considerations ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government have since examined the matter and whether any decision has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Credit Deposit Ratio of State Bank of Indore

303. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what amount was ad vanced by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 year-wise ;

(b) what was the credit-deposit ratio of the Bank during the above period, year-wise ;

(c) whether the ratio confirms to the all India ratio ; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?